

Going-to-the-Sun Road Rehabilitation Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement



Glacier National Park

**Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park
The World's First International Peace Park
A World Heritage Site**

August 2002

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Abstract: Glacier National Park is considering the rehabilitation of the 50-mile (80-kilometer) Going-to-the-Sun Road, a National Historic Landmark. Road rehabilitation is needed to correct structural deficiencies in the deteriorating roadway, improve safety, preserve historic and cultural resources, provide a safe and pleasant driving experience, and to upgrade visitor use facilities adjacent to the Road such as parking and pullouts, and roadside trails. To fully consider the options for improvements, four alternatives including a no action alternative were evaluated. The National Park Service's preferred alternative is to rehabilitate the Going-to-the-Sun Road over a 7- to 8-year period beginning in 2004. Rehabilitation includes repairs to historic retaining walls, guardwalls, tunnels, and other structural features contributing to the historic character of the Road. The National Park Service also proposes to implement mitigation measures such as transit service during construction, additional exhibits and interpretive information, and other visitor use improvements and programs to aid visitors and businesses during rehabilitation. Under the preferred alternative, the Road and access to Logan Pass would remain open during the visitor season. The National Park Service concluded that the preferred alternative provides the best overall balance in addressing needed Road rehabilitation, protecting and preserving historic, scenic, and natural resources, while allowing continued visitor access and minimizing impacts on regional businesses.

Other alternatives considered for rehabilitation of the Going-to-the-Sun Road included: the no action alternative—rehabilitation of the Road over a 50-year period based on current levels of funding; priority rehabilitation over 20 years; or an accelerated completion alternative, which would take 6 to 8 years to complete. The consequences of these actions on socioeconomic, cultural, and natural resources are discussed in this draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Public Comment: If you wish to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, you may send comments to the address below. Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. **If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.** We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

- **By mail:** Superintendent, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936
- **By fax:** (406) 888-7808
- **By e-mail:** glac_project_public_comments@nps.gov
- **Hand deliver:** Glacier National Park Headquarters, Project Management Office, Going-to-the-Sun Road, West Glacier, MT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BMP	Best Management Practice
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FWHA	Federal Highway Administration
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GMP	General Management Plan
GNP	Glacier National Park
HAER	Historic American Engineering Record
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
MP	Mile Post
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Park	Glacier National Park
Road	Going-to-the-Sun Road
ROD	Record of Decision
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office